

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 STR-08

TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12

PRS-01 AGR-20 RSR-01 /140 W
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R 171749Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2690

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS LONDON 08244

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAG, EEC, UK, FR

SUBJECT: SUGAR: FRENCH ATTACK ON EC COMMISSION PLAN

1. SUMMARY - AG MINISTER CHIRAC'S ATTACK ON EC COMMISSION PROPOSALS ON SUGAR FEATURED PROMINENTLY IN BRITISH PRESS. FRENCH REPORTEDLY HIGHLY CRITICAL OF PROPOSAL, WHILE BRITISH "WELCOMED" IT. END SUMMARY

2. BRITISH PRESS GAVE WIDE COVERAGE TO AG MINISTER CHIRAC'S REMARKS ON EC COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS TO PROVIDE CONTINUED ACCESS TO COMMUNITY MARKET AFTER 1975 FOR 1.4 MILLION TONS OF SUGAR PRODUCED BY DEVELOPING
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COUNTRIES. FINANCIAL TIMES HIGHLIGHTED SEVERITY OF

CHIRAC'S LANGUAGE. REPORTEDLY HE DESCRIBED COMMISSION PROPOSALS AS "RIDICULOUS", STATED FRANCE WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO EVEN DISCUSS PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD CUT BACK COMMUNITY SUGAR PRODUCTION AT A TIME OF WORLD SUGAR SHORTAGE, AND SAID FRANCE WOULD QUESTION "EVERY PRINCIPLE" ON WHICH COMMISSION DOCUMENT BASED. COMMISSION WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE USEFULLY EMPLOYED IN STUDYING WORLD PROTEIN SHORTAGE AND US SOYABEAN EXPORT BAN THAN IN PREPARING ESTIMATES OF SUGAR NEEDS WHICH REVEALED ITS "TOTAL INCOMPETENCE". CHIRAC ALSO CRITICIZED COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON, STATING THAT IT WAS NOT USUAL FOR "A FRENCH COMMISSIONER TO MAKE A MOCKERY OF FRENCH INTERESTS".

3. ON THE OTHER HAND AGRICULTURE MINISTER GODBER SAID THAT BRITAIN "WARMLY WELCOMED" COMMISSION PROPOSAL. HE WAS NOT DISMAYED BY CHIRAC'S REJECTION OF COMMISSION FIGURE, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS AN OPENING NEGOTIATING POSITION, BUT WARNED THAT BRITAIN WOULD "RESIST MOST STRONGLY" IF FRANCE TRIED TO "SERIOUSLY" REDUCE THE TONNAGE. OTHER QUALITY BRITISH PRESS CARRIED SIMILAR REPORTS.

ANNENBERG

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30 JUN 2005

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